Fifth expedition to the Antarctica

*151. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fifth expedition to the Antarctica is likely to start in November, 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Expedition is likely to commence in December, 1985.

(b) The details of the expedition are being finalised.

Eradication of untouchability

*152. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made assessment to know the achievements towards the eradication of untouchability in the country and how far the State Governments have played their role to achieve the objective;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the State Governments which are lagging behind and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to develop social awareness in the country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such an assessment is done annually through the mechanism provided in Section 15-A of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. Sub-section (4) of the aforesaid Section of the P.C.R. Act, 1955 has made it obligatory for the Central Government to place on the Table of each House of Parliament every year a report on the measures taken by itself and by the State Governments to achieve the objective of eradication of untouchabilty. The Annual Report on the P.C.R. Act, 1955 for the year 1983 has been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 28th March, 1985 and on the Table of Lok Sabha on 10th April, 1985. This Report contains information regarding the measures taken by the Central Government as well as the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

(c) The Central Government is taking necessary measures to inform and educate the people with a view to creating an awarencess among them about the evils of untouchability through different media units like All India Radio, Doordarshan, Exhibitions hoardings, wall-paintings, booklets etc.

Air India flight on New York-London-Bombay-Trivandrum route

*153. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to operate an Air India flight on New York -London -Bombay -Trivandrum route;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal of introducing a direct flight from Trivandrum to London and New York taking into consideration the large number of Indians from Kerala working in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

Technology for enrichment of uranium

*154. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California has developed technology for uranium enrichment by the Atomic Vapour Laser Isotope Separation Process (AVILS);